

Rev. J. Davis offered a few remarks on the subject of Mr. Haynes's address and resolution. We have Foreign Missionary organizations, and have had for years, but the great complaint is, that we have nothing to do. There is now an opening in Burmah, and we are taking measures for prosecuting the work there. But the mission just referred to appears more accessible to our efforts. It may be difficult for us to sustain two American Missionaries in Burmah, but it seems perfectly easy for us to sustain four or five, or even six colporteur missionaries in Sweden, and that to aid in that great movement by which God is evidently about to pull down all error, and establish truth in the world. I am particularly interested in sending a colporteur missionary to Sweden, among other reasons, because the pulpit in that country is sealed against truth. We shall not be able to address the leaders directly, but we shall reach the common people and the others through them just as our Master did. They heard him gladly, though the proud Doctors and Pharisees rejected him. But what care he for these? If he could get hold of the mass of the people he was satisfied. All reformers begin with the humble, not with the high; they begin with those who are at the bottom of society, and the work rises up, till the whole mass is affected and the work is done. Another thought.—I have had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with brother Oncken. I took him by the hand in my own country. What has God done through that man? He suffered persecution, was fined and imprisoned for preaching the truth; but his bonds and afflictions turned out for the furtherance of the gospel. Hamburg is now as free for the circulation of evangelical truth as Yarmouth is. There is a struggle going on there between truth and error. The State Church first allows truth to circulate, and then yields to that struggle. We know well what is the source of a large portion of error in the state church and in some other churches. It is the peculiar dogma which our principles aim directly at destroying. When we teach the people that they must be born again, and that they have no right to church-membership until they become new creatures in Christ Jesus, we lay the axe at the root of the tree. We level directly at every popish error. Our work is, not to cease till popery itself is hurled to the ground, and the cry shall have gone up from earth and echoed back from heaven, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, to rise no more."

Rev. J. J. Woolsey, Agent of the American and Foreign Bible Society, then addressed the meeting on the "Bible Cause."

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope you will compose your minds and not allow yourselves to feel alarmed lest a long speech should be inflicted upon you. I intend no such thing at this late hour. You have been hearing about Missions, and have been deeply interested, I feel assured, in the stirring details relative to the promotion of vital godliness in the world, which have been brought before you. I am thankful that a few moments have been given to the BIBLE. And when I utter this word it speaks volumes. This is the great storehouse whence all evangelical truth is drawn. Tracts and sermons and evangelical books are of immense value; but the Bible outweighs them all. Now, the object of the Society, whose claims I plead, is to circulate this Book as widely as possible. And never was there a greater opening for this work than at the present day. Our Saviour once said to his disciples, "Lift up your eyes and look upon the fields, for they are white already unto the harvest." And you know at the same time when the disciples asked him to partake of the feast which they had prepared for him, he refused to eat, and said, "I have meat to eat which ye know not of." Even the food that had been brought at his bidding he refused to touch because the great work of salvation claimed his heart and his efforts. Now we should be like him. The salvation of sinners, the promotion of the glory of our great Redeemer, should be dearer to our hearts than any earthly interest, pleasure or employment.

It is delightful to sit in a congregation like this and listen to those exhibitions of divine grace which have been brought before us in so thrilling a manner this evening, the efforts of those various evangelical Societies, whose labors serve like so many waves to sweep over such a dark world as this, bringing light and peace and joy to us, and to thousands. But, as I have observed, there is another wave in the list more potent than all the other instrumentalities that have been brought before you. What has not the Bible accomplished? I have papers at home which give your genealogies, which trace your ancestry back a good many hundred years. I have seen you tattooing your bodies, dressing yourselves in skins,

living in miserable huts, roaming the forests for prey and plunder—like the Indians of our western world, bending in adoration before hideous idols of wicker work, filled with human victims, to be consumed as an offering to your abominable gods. And what, I ask, has made you differ from your fathers? God sent you the Bible! that is what has done the work. O, I love the Bible! I love its histories: I love its precepts, I love its promises! I love it for what it can do. I love to hear of those venerable men who were your pioneers in these Provinces, in the work of evangelization. How come they to be what they were? How come they to be Baptists? Was it from some beams of light conveyed to them from polemical works, from learned tomes and elaborate disquisitions? No indeed! They read their Bibles; they went to the fountain head of truth, and that blessed book made them what they were. So it has been in different parts of the world. When light has been let down into the darkness of earth and has irradiated and purified the hearts of men, it has led them to turn away from all mere tradition, and to reject the commandments of men as authority in Religion, and to draw their practice and doctrine from the Bible.

Now we have an instrumentality for promoting this great work. The American and Foreign Bible Society, I presume, has become a "household word" with you. That Society is translating and circulating the Scriptures in many foreign languages. But in addition to this we are doing a great work at home. We are employing colporteurs to circulate the English Scriptures among the destitute every where. The Society is now sustaining 70 colporteurs, and they are laboring among all classes and nations whither the "lively oracles" have come. These 70 laborers have sent in their Reports on the last year, and we have learned the happy results, that in one year eight hundred have been hopefully converted to God, in addition to all the other good that has been effected. You have this evening been speaking of Missions, in which eight or nine years have passed, and but one convert has been made. Others have, as you know, labored ten, twelve, yea fifteen years before they saw any fruits of their labors. But here are eight hundred converts gathered in in one year; [Nay, good brother, date a little farther back in your comparisons. Begin where the first translator of the Bible into English first began to think of undertaking the work; or better still, begin where He "who touched Isaiah's hallowed lips with fire" first designed to give the world the Bible. And divide that period by the number of converts made, and ascertain, if you can, the amount of credit due to each agent and instrument.—Reporter.] and when you remember that they are mostly from the very dregs of Society, you may well praise the instrumentality which has been employed. The BIBLE has been one of the most effectual instrumentalities which has been employed. The blessing of God rests especially upon it. He has himself given the promise that it shall not return unto him void. And from every quarter they are appealing to us for help. They want more Bibles, and more laborers to circulate them. Brother Oncken, in Germany, has sent a pressing appeal, and another comes to us from the Karens, and others from every other quarter.

Now will you aid us? The Society I might mention, is circulating the most faithful versions that can be found in the different languages. And no denominations can make more faithful versions than can our missionaries. In English we circulate what is called the "received version" and are desirous of putting it into the hands of every person who speaks our tongue.

And now, dear friends, we must appeal to you for aid. What a momentous object we thus place before you! Think of the worth of a soul—the immaterial soul—the immortal spirit—that must exist forever in heaven or hell!—and remember that thousands through this instrumentality are brought to Christ and saved; it is for the salvation of these souls that we are laboring, that they may deck the Saviour's crown. This is the great object of the American and Foreign Bible Society—and on this ground we solicit your sympathies, your prayers, and your donations.

Brother W. H. Rogers followed with the closing speech in behalf of the "Bible Union." He spoke to the following effect.—Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I ought not to make any apologies, but it is the first time that I ever addressed a meeting of this kind, and feel myself hardly adequate to the task, especially at this late hour, and after so many able speakers have preceded me. But I shall endeavour to be brief and to do my best. I am here as the representative of the American Bible Union, and I may ask your attention and your prayers while I

make a few remarks about that Society. I love the Bible. I love the truths it teaches. I love to read its touching anecdotes. I love the story of the prodigal son, and rejoice to know that its glorious truths are the means of saving men from sin and misery, both here and hereafter. It is because I love the Bible that I advocate the claims of the Bible Union. All that we know of the origin of the world, of the fall of man, of God's dealings with mankind, and of the great plan of redemption, is contained within the lids of that holy volume. But you all know that all these truths would be sealed to us if the book were not translated. You know that the old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the new in Greek. The most of us are unable to read those languages, and are therefore dependant upon a translation. Now it is a remarkable fact that as soon as the volume of inspiration was closed those languages ceased to be spoken as living languages. God has therefore clearly made it our duty to translate his Word, otherwise it would be useless to the nations. And I believe it to be the duty of the Christian church to spare no pains and no expense to prepare the most correct translations possible. The Bible ought to speak with one voice in every language. It is universally admitted that there are many errors in our English version. We ought not to be afraid to admit this fact; nor unwilling to speak of those errors, and surely we ought not to be unwilling to see them removed. Every arrangement for disseminating pure divine truth is an arrangement against disseminating human errors in its place. We are continually compelled to hear corrections of the version from the pulpit. Every man who can read the original feels himself at liberty to make them, and to tell us the translation is incorrect. Why not make one job of it and remove them all at once? Are we not bound by every consideration to do so? I believe that a faithful, correct translation would be one of the most effectual means of promoting union amongst christians.

The Bible Union has had a world of prejudice to contend with, but this is rapidly giving way. From a very small beginning it has grown up to be a very great Society. There are now being employed about 30 Scholars from eight different denominations. Their scholarship it is said is unrivalled in the world. Biblical criticism and the science of philology were only in their infancy in the days of King James. There is no reason why we should not have the advantage in our English Bible of all the light and improvements which succeeding ages of research have shed upon these and kindred subjects, as well as these nations into which translations are now, for the first time, being made.

But I will not detain you any longer, and I hope, Mr. Chairman, our friends will not judge of the cause by the ability of the advocate; and I beg further to thank this Convention for the kind manner in which this object has been entertained, and I thank the friends here for the liberal manner in which it has been sustained.

A vote of thanks to the church and friends at Yarmouth for their kindness and hospitality was passed, and the Convention adjourned to meet next year with the Church at Germain Street, St. John, N. B. Closed with prayer and benediction.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Digby.

After a reference to his failing health and the insufficiency of remedies to remove deep-seated disease our afflicted brother Cunningham writes:

DEAR BROTHER SELDEN,
"My thoughts now turn on another subject.—A baptist ministry for my dear people. I trust my poor prayers are about to be answered. A brother, Munro, late teacher from the Baptist Seminary in Fredericton, has been labouring among us since the rising of the Convention in Yarmouth, and most happy am I to say, that no man, since our highly esteemed and excellent Brother Higgins left us last year, has been so generally, indeed I may say, enthusiastically received. He lives at present with me, and so far I can say I am pleased with him, both publicly and privately; and should he settle, and events justify my hopes and expectations, I shall be ready to say, "Now, lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." More, if it please God, at a future time.

I remain, Dear brother,
Most truly yours,
R. W. CUNNINGHAM.
Rose Cottage, Sept. 14th, '57.

Everything is education; the trains of thought you are indulging in this hour; the society in which you will spend the evening; the conversation, walks, and incidents of to-morrow. And ought it not to be? We may thank the world for its infinite means of impression and excitement which keep our faculties awake and in action, and guide it to some divine result.—J. Foster.

For the Christian Messenger.

Baptist Churches in Central Association.

[The following Report was read at the recent Convention at Yarmouth, and is published at their request.]

REPORT ON THE STATE OF RELIGION WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE NOVA SCOTIA CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The object of this report it is supposed is to obtain and present information not merely of a statistical but to glean from the letters such items of a purely religious character as shall be deemed interesting to this Convention.

Your Committee are gratified to be able to record many cheering indications of the presence of the Holy Spirit during the past year. The additions by baptism have amounted to four hundred and seventeen. In one County—that of Kings—269 have been enabled to follow Christ in His ordinances; in the County of Halifax, 100; in the County of Hants, 89; and in the County of Lunenburg, 9; being a far greater increase than in any year since the Association was organized.

UPPER AYLESFORD.—(Rev. A. Stronach, Pastor.)—"While we have reason to humble ourselves before God on account of our luke-warmness and indifference we are still enabled to rejoice that we are not without some manifestations of the Divine favor, more especially in the southern sections of the Church, where quite a number, especially of the young, during the past and previous years, have been hopefully converted and are now walking in the truth."—Baptized 12.

BURTON.—"This is a small Church, composed chiefly of colored brethren and sisters, in the County of Halifax, enjoying some degree of prosperity and walking in harmony."—Baptized 3.

BRIDGEWATER.—(Rev. I. J. Skinner, Pastor.)—"Some interval during last year elapsed in which this Church was destitute of pastoral labor. This want has been supplied in the person of the present pastor, formerly of Port Medway, who is now laboring acceptably in word and doctrine. A good degree of union exists in this church."—During the year 8 have been added by baptism.

CHELSEA.—"This church exhibits a diminution from last year in actual strength—owing to natural causes—but union exists among us, and we are looking to the rest that remains for the people of God."

CHESTER.—(Under the pastoral care of Rev. T. W. Crawley.)—"We deeply mourn over past and present declension, but believing that the word of the Lord shall not return unto him void, but shall accomplish that which He pleases, and prosper in the thing whereunto he sent it, we can lift our waiting eyes unto Him and steadily look forward with faith to the coming of the Lord's set time to favor Zion."

CORNWALLIS FIRST.—(Rev. A. S. Hunt, Pastor.)—"Events of the past year cause both sorrow and joy. During the early part of the year it pleased God to remove from our earthly communion several youthful members of the church, and recently some of the more aged—our lamented and highly esteemed brother Thomas Elder—our aged sister the widow of our late venerated pastor—premier in godliness and lowliness of spirit. We have to rejoice in the manifestations of Divine grace. Both in Canaan and Pereaux the renewing influences of divine grace were shed forth abundantly, sinners were converted, backsliders restored, and the public mind favorably impressed—the converts were of all ages, many heads of families, husbands and wives coming together. The church realizes the necessity for increased ministerial labor for which efforts are being made. A commodious house of worship has recently been erected at Canning."—Baptized 65.

2nd CORNWALLIS.—(Rev. Mr. Chipman, Pastor.)—"Although we as a church have not had our number increased as on the previous year, yet God has been pleased to favor us with some additions, and there seems to be a prospect of encouragement in the future. Our aged pastor still labors with us in the gospel and though sinking fast beneath the infirmities of years, yet is strong in the Lord, and the exhibitions of divine truth, which he so faithfully inculcates, will doubtless continue to produce beneficial results when he shall have passed from the troubles and conflicts of the church militant to the joys and exultation of the church triumphant."—Baptized 10.

THIRD CORNWALLIS.—"During the past year we have had our trying and encouraging seasons, being forced to use the sword of discipline in cutting off some of our number who "were not of us."

We have also had our encouraging and refreshing seasons in welcoming repenting sinners to the gospel ordinances and our church fellow-